

The Montana Standards for Arts

Introduction

Philosophy and Rationale for the Arts

The arts exist because language is limited. The arts help humankind express their thoughts and feelings beyond words. These revised Montana Standards for Arts embrace the idea of **Artistic Literacy** – the ability of students to create art, perform and present art, respond or critique art, and connect art to their lives and the world around them.

The arts are essential to a world-class education. Studying the arts helps to develop critical habits of mind—creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking that lead to college, career and civic readiness. These skills have been recognized as essential to lifelong success both in and out of school by a variety of education and civic leaders, including the National Association of State Boards of Education, the Education Commission of the States, and The Conference Board.

The revised Montana Standards for Arts borrow their structure from the [2014 Voluntary National Core Arts Standards](#). They contain substantive changes from the 2000 state standards in response to the needs of the field:

1. The revised standards move from general content standards across all artistic disciplines to five distinct artistic disciplines, each their own content area with a set of standards unique to that discipline. These disciplines are Visual Arts, Media Arts, Dance, Theatre and Music.
2. The revised Music standards include five strands to reflect that music education in Montana encompasses different kinds of musical learning in elementary, middle and high school. These strands are K-8 General Music, Music Composition and Theory, Music Technology, Harmonizing Instruments and Traditional and Emerging Ensembles.
3. The five artistic disciplines include Media Arts standards, in order to support artistic literacy in the areas of film, animation, gaming and computational artmaking (writing software code to create an aesthetic experience). These media arts standards are meant to supplement any existing Career and Technical Education industry standards in the digital communications area.
4. The five artistic disciplines are unified under four artistic processes, representing the larger encompassing idea of **artistic literacy**. The four processes are: Creating, Performing/Presenting/Producing, Responding and Connecting.
5. The revised standards move from grade bands to grade by grade level content standards for each discipline, from kindergarten through high school proficiency. These standards will allow for greater differentiation of instruction and support better measurement of student learning.
6. The revised arts standards integrate Montana's Indian Education for All and the Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, acknowledging the contribution of native tribes to Montana's rich artistic and cultural life.
7. The five artistic disciplines also are unified by the use of eleven Anchor Standards underneath the four Artistic Processes to create more consistency across the content areas within the standards. The categories and Anchor Standards are listed in the table below:

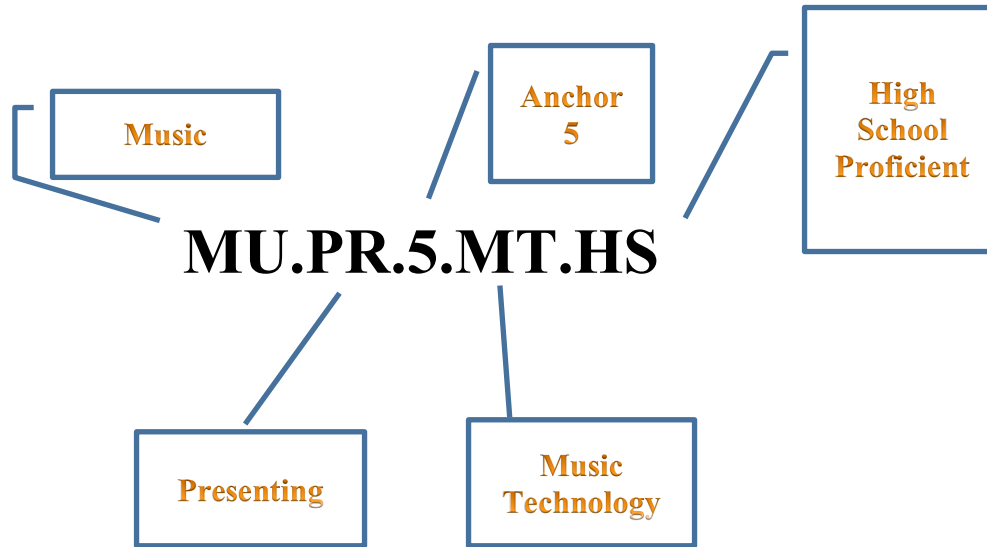
The Four Artistic Processes in the Montana Standards for Arts

Creating Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work	Performing/ Presenting/ Producing Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation	Responding Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning	Connecting Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context
Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work	Anchor Standard #4. Analyze, interpret, and select artistic work for presentation	Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work	Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art
Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work	Anchor Standard #5. Develop and refine artistic work for presentation	Anchor Standard #8. Construct meaningful interpretations of artistic work	Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding, including artistic ideas and works by American Indians
Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work	Anchor Standard #6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work	Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work	

Note: Performing is the term preferred for Music, Theatre and Dance. Presenting is preferred for Visual Arts, while Producing is preferred for Media Arts.

Coding of the Standards

Coding of the Montana Standards for Arts is below:



Examples:

<u>Code</u>	<u>Arts Discipline</u>	<u>Artistic Process Strand</u>	<u>Anchor Standard</u>	<u>Music Type</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Standard (if more than one per anchor)</u>
VA.CR.1.Kb	Visual Arts	Creating (CR)	1.		Kindergarten	Second content standard
MA.CN.11.5	Media Arts	Connecting (CN)	11.		5 th grade	(none)
TH.RE.8.HS	Theatre	Responding (RE)	8.		High School Proficient	(none)
MU.PR.5.MT.HS	Music	Performing (PR)	5.	Music Technology	High School Proficient	(none)

Music Types

PE	Performing Ensembles
MT	Music Technology
MC	Music Theory and Composition
HI	Harmonizing Instruments